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**MINNESOTA SOYBEAN FORECAST DOWN FROM LAST MONTH AND
CORN FORECAST REMAINS UNCHANGED FROM LAST MONTH**

This is the last production forecast of the season. Production figures may change between now and when the final estimates are released, due to data being collected on the end-of-season crop survey, according to the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service. Final acreage and production figures will be released on January 12, 2004.

CORN grain production is forecast at 951 million bushels, unchanged from the October 1 forecast, and down 10% from the 2002 record year, according to the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service. Yield is forecast at 143.0 bushels per acre, the same as last month but down 14 bushels from the 2002 record.

SOYBEAN production for Minnesota is forecast at 229.4 million bushels, down 3% from the October forecast and down 79.5 million bushels from the record high production in 2002. Based on November 1 conditions, the yield is forecast at 31.0 bushels per acre which is down 1 bushel from October and down 12.5 bushels from the 2002 record.

The **SUGARBEET** crop is estimated at 9.56 million tons, up 3% from last month and up 8% from last year. Yield is estimated at 20.6 tons per acre, up 0.7 ton from October 1 but down 0.9 ton per acre from the record high in 2000.

FALL POTATO production is forecast at 22.3 million hundredweight, up 19% from last year. Yield is forecast at a new record of 385 hundredweight, up 45 hundredweight from last year but up 25 hundredweight from the previous record high in 2000.

U.S. HIGHLIGHTS

CORN production is forecast at 10.3 billion bushels, up 1% from last month and 14% above 2002. Based on conditions as of November 1, yields are expected to average 143.2 bushels per acre, up 1.0 bushel from October and up 13.2 bushels from last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest on record. Both previous records were set in 1994. Of the major producing States, Illinois and Ohio are expecting record yields. Yields are also forecast at record highs in 8 other States located mostly in the Southeast.

SOYBEAN production is forecast at 2.45 billion bushels, down 1% from the October forecast and 11% below 2002. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1996. Based on conditions as of November 1, yields are expected to average 33.8 bushels per acre, down 0.2 bushel from October and down 4.2 bushels from 2002. As harvest progressed, producers realized yield decreases from last month in South Dakota, upper Mississippi Valley, Great Lakes, and eastern Corn Belt. However, in Alabama, Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, the Tennessee Valley, and along the Atlantic Coastal Plains, yield prospects increased from last month. Area for harvest is forecast at 72.5 million acres, unchanged from last month but up fractionally from 2002.

SUGARBEETS production is forecast at 30.6 million tons, 2% above the October forecast and 10% above last year's production. Growers in the 12 sugarbeet-producing States expect to harvest 1.35 million acres. This is virtually unchanged from October but 1 percent below last year. The yield is forecast at 22.8 tons per acre, 0.6 ton above last month and 2.4 tons above 2002. Near ideal weather conditions throughout most of the sugarbeet growing areas have allowed for timely harvest. As of November 2, harvest was 97% complete in the four reporting States, compared to the 5-year average of 93%.

FALL POTATOES: Production of fall potatoes for 2003 is forecast at 414 million cwt, virtually unchanged from last year but 5% greater than the 2001 crop. Area harvested, at 1.09 million acres, is virtually unchanged from the July estimate but down 1% from last year. The average yield is forecast at 378 cwt per acre, 5 cwt above last year and 11 cwt greater than the 2001 season.

MINNESOTA & U.S. HARVESTED ACRES, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

COMMODITY	2002 HARVESTED ACRES (000)	2003 HARVESTED ACRES (000)	2002 YIELD	2003 YIELD	2002 PRODUCTION (000)	2003 PRODUCTION (000)
MINNESOTA						
CORN (Bu)	6,700	6,650	157.0	143.0	1,051,900	950,950
SOYBEANS (Bu)	7,100	7,400	43.5	31.0	308,850	229,400
SUGARBEETS (Ton)	476	464	18.6	20.6	8,854	9,558
FALL POTATOES (Cwt)	55	58	340	385	18,700	22,330
UNITED STATES						
CORN (Bu)	69,313	71,765	130.0	143.2	9,007,659	10,277,932
SOYBEANS (Bu)	72,437	72,538	38.0	33.8	2,749,340	2,451,759
SUGARBEETS (Ton)	1,361	1,346	20.4	22.8	27,718	30,624
FALL POTATOES (Cwt)	1,270	1,253	362	367	459,802	459,241

**WATCH FOR OUR ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY
TO BE RELEASED ON JANUARY 12TH**

